



State Representative

**Mark Miloscia**



## 2006 Legislative Report

### Representative

### Mark Miloscia

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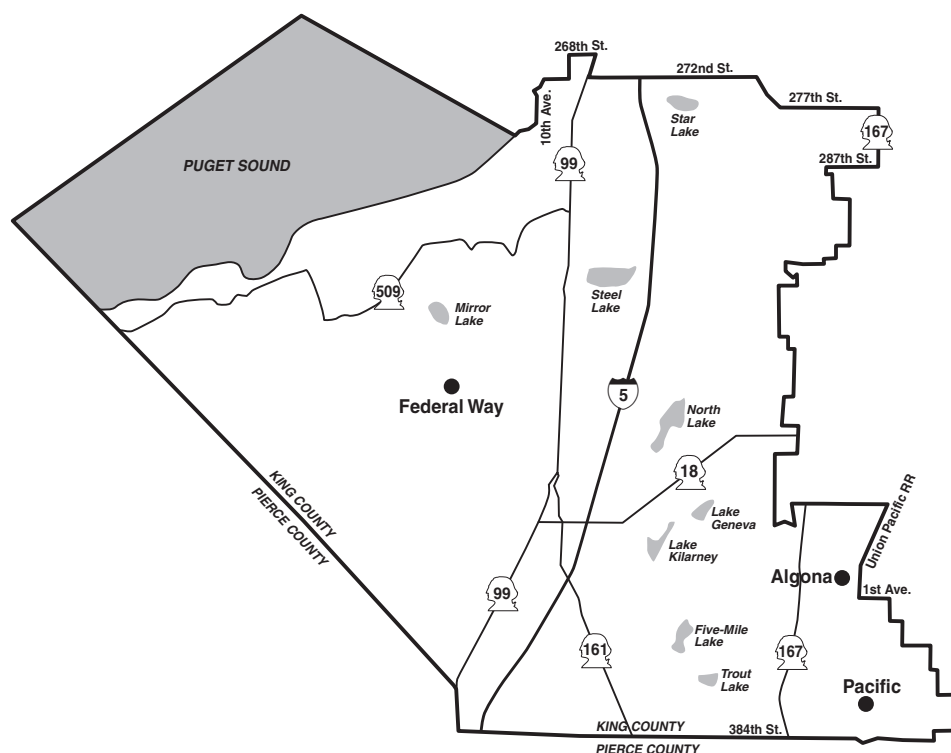
#### Committee Assignments:

Chair of the Housing  
Committee  
Appropriations  
State Government Operations  
& Accountability

Dear Neighbors,

With a new year comes a new legislative session in Olympia. It's a short one this year – only 60 days. Nevertheless, I spent months meeting with citizens and planning legislation to bring to the state capital. School funding, performance audits, and our state's economy have all made significant gains in the last year. By being a tireless advocate for government accountability, better-paying jobs, and stronger protections for families, I am looking forward to even more progress in 2006.

*Mark Miloscia*



## 30th Legislative District

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## **Affordable Housing**

The cost of housing and living in our area has been increasing, forcing people to move away from their communities and the places they work. A part of the solution to this problem is providing affordable housing to those in need.

This session I will be working to pass legislation (House Bills 2649 and 2418) that would divert a portion of the taxes collected from home sales into an affordable housing fund. Through this fund, low-income families throughout the state can get into and retain homes they would otherwise be priced out of. It means greater support for those in need in our communities with no new taxes.

## **Ending Homelessness**

To really begin to solve homelessness, we need to know the extent of the problem. If we are to measure our success we need to know what's working and what isn't.

That is why I've sponsored legislation (HB 2650) that will set into motion a census of the homeless population, followed by a ten-year plan to provide housing for all those in need. By the end of that plan, long-term housing will be a reality for many of our less fortunate citizens who once went without a roof over their head.

Thanks to legislation my committee passed last year, I'll be joining volunteers for the first homeless count in

Federal Way. The next step is measuring the accurate results of our actions. With a responsible approach, we'll make sure the taxpayers and those we serve are getting the best bang for the buck.



## **Supporting Living Wage Jobs**

Our state helps those working their way up the pay scale with a minimum wage higher than any other state in the nation. It was a long road to the wage standards we have now, but it was worth it for the working people of Washington. It's not luck that Washington's average income is growing faster than the US average. The more money workers make, the more they can purchase. And in a consumer-based economy like ours, there's nothing more important than making sure salaries keep up with the cost-of-living here.

Washington currently has one of the most robust economies in the country. A high minimum wage has undoubtedly been a driving force in that. But for families looking to make ends meet, the minimum wage just isn't enough. The gap between what some families earn and what it takes to live is keeping many people, and their children, from a chance at a better life.

Washington State has contracts with many businesses and I will pursue legislation (HB 1527) requiring them to pay their workers a wage with which they can support themselves and their families.



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## Cleaning Up Campaign Financing

If you've been paying attention to the news coming out of the other Washington lately, you've no doubt witnessed the mess that our nation's leaders and the K Street lobbyists have gotten themselves into. It simply comes down to one fact: *money corrupts the process*. Electing our public officials is not a perfect system and we must continue to

strengthen the rules governing campaigns. Elected officials should be beholden only to the communities they serve, not to the highest bidder.

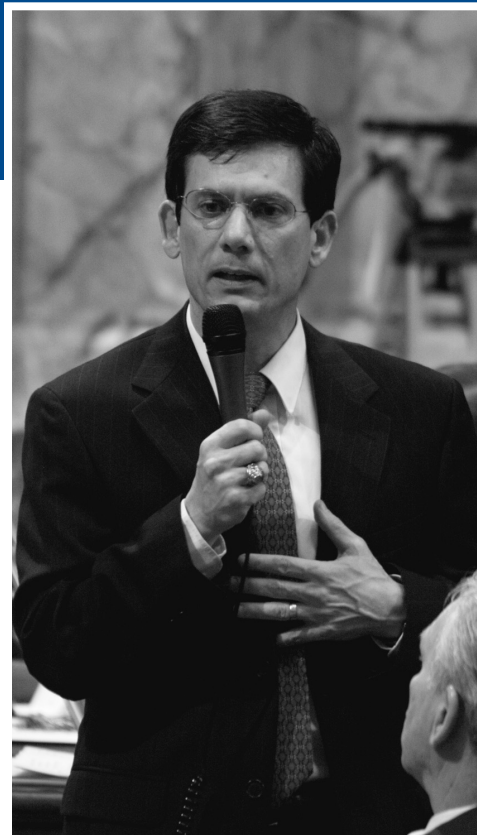


Our Public Disclosure Commission (PDC), where all campaign contributions must be reported, has been doing great job at holding candidates accountable. I am co-sponsor of a bill (HB 2358) that would reinforce and strengthen the PDC's ability to watch and cite those participating in the campaign process.

To help take money out of the process, we also need to start limiting the amounts given to candidates. I am working on a campaign contributions bill that would bolster restrictions on campaign financing (HB 2449). This would help decrease the role money has on candidates and boost the importance of voting citizens.

Making sure money doesn't corrupt the system is vital to a healthy and legitimate election process. Campaign finance reform is important and I will always make it a priority in Olympia.

***I believe real family values means valuing the things families value, like family-wage jobs, affordable health care, and a quality education for our children.***



## Helpful Tips To Lower Your Winter Bills

In the wake of Hurricane Katrina the federal Energy Information Administration predicts that consumers can expect to spend anywhere from 50 to 70 percent more in energy costs this winter depending on where you live.

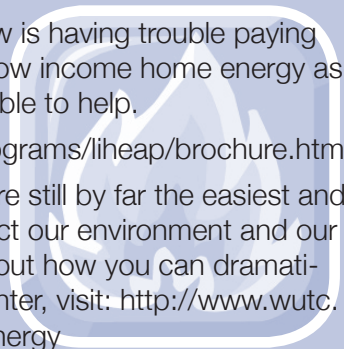
The federal government as a result of recent budget cuts under funded an important government program known as the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).

This cut could leave thousands of Washington's elderly and needy families without heat this winter. I have supported legislation to fund a one time supplement to increase this energy assistance fund to help out Washington's most vulnerable.

If you or someone you know is having trouble paying their home energy bill, the low income home energy assistance program may be able to help.

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/liheap/brochure.html>

Energy-efficient practices are still by far the easiest and most effective way to protect our environment and our wallets. If you'd like to find out how you can dramatically cut energy bills this winter, visit: <http://www.wutc.wa.gov/consumerguides/energy>







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**30th District**

## Making Government Accountable to its Citizens

Washington has taken huge steps to strengthen government accountability in the past few years. Last year, not only did the Legislature pass performance audits, voters also approved an initiative to bolster the performance audit laws to even better levels.

Nonetheless, there is always more we can do to bolster government accountability to its citizens. I have bills that would push for accountability and quality management in school districts (HB 2451) and the creation of a statewide hotline to report lapses in government efficiency (HB 2495). The pursuit of great ideas should not come at the expense of wise spending.

## Keeping up with the Legislature

An easy way to track bills and votes is by visiting the state Legislature's official website, at: <http://www1.leg.wa.gov/legislature/>

There, you'll find information on everything from current bills under consideration to state history and culture.

If you'd like to contact me personally, feel free to call our toll-free hotline at: **800.562.6000** (Hearing Impaired: **800.635.9993**)

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